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PATENT
09/966,005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	:	Group Art Unit: 2127
	:	Examiner Jennifer N. Ho
David B. Kumhyr et al.	:	Intellectual Property
Serial No. 09/966,005	:	Law Department - 4054
Filed: 09/28/01	:	International Business
Title: A COMPUTER CONTROLLED	:	Machines Corporation
DISPLAY SYSTEM FOR	:	11400 Burnet Road
CONTROLLING AND TRACKING OF	:	Austin, Texas 78758
SOFTWARE PROGRAM OBJECTS	:	Customer No. 53,493
THROUGH A DISPLAYED SEQUENCE	:	
OF BUILD EVENTS AND ENABLING	:	
USER REGISTRATION TO PERFORM	:	
ACTIONS ON SAID BUILD EVENTS	:	
Date: _Dec 12, 2005_	:	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence including a Brief
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA
22313-1450 on _Dec 12, 2005_ .

J.B KRAFT

_____   12/12/05
Signature   Date

TRANSMITTAL OF APPELLANTS' BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 1.192(a)

Commissioner for Patents
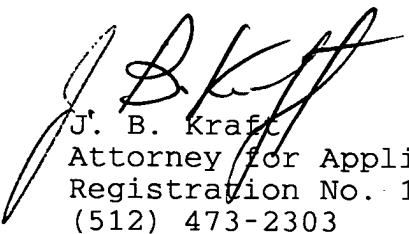P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached is Appellants' Brief (in triplicate) in this Appeal from a decision of the Examiner dated July 12, 2005 finally rejecting claims 1-33.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3533 in the amount of $500.00 for the Appeal Brief fee. (a duplicate of this transmittal is included.)

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3533 (of Lenovo Inc).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _Dec 12, 2005_	:	

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Appeal from the Final Rejection of Claims 1-33 of this Application dated July 12, 2005. Section VIII. Appendix containing a copy of each of the Claims is attached.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Lenovo (United States) Inc., the assignee of the present Application.

AUS920010766US1 1

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

None

III. Status of Claims

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

There are 33 claims in this Application.

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS

1. Claims cancelled: None
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not cancelled: None.
3. Claims pending: 1-33.
4. Claims allowed: None.
5. Claims rejected: 1-33.

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

Claims on appeal: 1-33.

IV Status of Amendments

No amendments have been filed after Final Rejection.

V. Summary of Claimed Invention

The present invention covers a shared work project in which several sets of software objects are being built through several respective sequences of build events which are to be contributed to by the users through the respective users selectively interactively registering to perform specific actions in the respective build event or conversely to interactively unregister from performing such acts. Since all of the sequential build events are displayed, and thus visible to all users, and the users are free to interactively register and unregister for specific actions on selected build events in selected sequences forming program objects. In this manner, any of the plurality of users who will be affected by the actions of other users in registering or unregistering, can observe such actions and then take appropriate action in response.

These elements are shown in claim 1 which represents all three independent claims (shown on next page).

1. A computer controlled user interactive display system
for dynamically tracking and controlling the building of
software program objects comprising:

means for tracking each of a plurality of sets of
sequential build events, each set of sequential build events
respectively building a program object; (Specification, page
9, lines 1-4 referring to Fig. 2, a display screen for
displaying a plurality of "build lines", and lines 13-17
referring to two illustrative "build lines": Program object
I Build Start 45 and Program object II Build Start 64 Fig.
2);

means for displaying each of said sets of sequential
build events; (lines 1-4 referring to Fig. 2, a display
screen for displaying a plurality of "build lines", and
lines 13-17 referring to two illustrative "build lines");

means associated with each of said displayed sequential
build events enabling any one of a plurality of users to
interactively register to perform an action on said build
event; (specification, page 10, line 31 to page 11, line 3
showing how user interactively opens a window, Fig. 3,
window 60 having a dialog box 71 for the user interactively
registering for an associated event, as described on page
11, lines 19-22); and

means associated with each of said displayed sequential
build events enabling any one of said plurality of users to
interactively unregister to perform an action on said build
event. (Fig. 3, window 60 having a dialog box 71 for the
user interactively registering of an associated event, as
described on page 11, lines 19-22).

VI. Grounds of Rejection

Claims 1, 6-8, 12, 17-19, 23, and 27-30 are rejected as unpatentable over the Grundy publication: "Visual Specification and Monitoring of Software Agents in Decentralized Process-centered Environments" under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-16, 20-22, and 31-33 are rejected as unpatentable over the Grundy publication in view of Notess (US5,438,659) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

VII. Argument

Claims 1, 6-8, 12, 17-19, 23, and 27-30 are patentable over the Grundy publication under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 6-8, 12, 17-19, 23, and 27-30 are submitted to be patentable over the Grundy publication under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). At most Grundy may share some common objectives with the process of the present invention i.e. informing other users involved in a production project what certain users are doing in the project. The present invention offers a specific implementation to a shared work project which is not suggested by Grundy. The present invention covers a shared work project in which several sets of software objects are being built through several respective sequences of build events which are to be contributed to by the users through the respective users selectively interactively registering to perform specific actions in the respective build event or conversely to interactively unregister from performing such acts. All of the sequential build events are displayed, and thus visible to all users, and the users are free to interactively register and unregister for specific actions on selected build events in selected sequences forming program objects. In this manner,

any of the plurality of users who will be affected by the actions of other users in registering or unregistering, can observe such actions and then take appropriate action in response.

The users in Grundy's publication may be able to selectively display what other workers have done in work processes but there is <u>no teaching in Grundy suggesting the display of a plurality of sets of sequential build events i.e. build lines wherein a user may interactively</u>, with respect to a display screen, selectively <u>register to do specific actions to any one event</u> in any one of a set of sequences in the building program objects <u>or unregister with respect to a specific action</u>.

The Examiner does concede that Grundy does not disclose the concept of registering or unregistering for specific action relative to events but Examiner argues that such action registration or unregistration would be obvious. Applicants submit that in view of the foregoing, the event action registration or unregistration is unobvious from the teaching of Grundy.

Response to Examiner's Arguments

In response to Applicants' arguments made during the course of prosecution, Examiner has made some arguments. However, the arguments appear to be very general and vague, and not specific enough to permit Applicants to consider their pertinence. The argument states that the teaching of Fig. 3 in Grundy teaches interactive user registering to perform actions. Applicants fail to see this in Fig. 3. So far as Applicants can determine Fig. 3 in Grundy is a split dialogue with the upper dialogue showing a property sheet for a component and the lower dialogue showing the history of work done with respect to the component. If Examiner has

a rationale for relating such a teaching for an interactive
user registering to do specific actions, Applicants request
Examiner to specify her position with respect to Fig. 3 in
Examiner's Answer so as to give Applicants an opportunity to
respond in a Reply Brief. The above request also applies to
the Examiner's citation of Grundy's Fig. 3 as suggesting the
user is enabled in Fig. 3 to undo a building object.

**Dependent claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-16, 20-22, and 31-33 are
patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the combination of
Grundy in view of Notess (US5,438,659)**

The rejection of remaining claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-16, 20-
22, and 31-33 under 35 USC 103(a) based on the combination
of Grundy in view of Notess is also respectfully traversed.
These claims are of course submitted to be patentable over
the basic Grundy reference for the reasons set forth above.
In addition, these claims have further limitations specific
to the implementation of the present invention. Since the
Examiner has selected to reject representative claims from
each of several groups, this argument will address the
representative claim in each group.

Dependent representative claims 2 and 3 have the
limitation that the users from the participating group be
authorized to perform the actions for which they register.
The general teaching of a manager controlled object building
system in Notess does generally disclose an authorization
implementation but not in any way related to any
registration/unregistration of action implementation like
that of the present invention.

Dependent claim 4 covers the automatic performance of a
registered action in response to a triggering event state.
Notess does generally disclose that actions may be triggered
by event states but nothing related to any

registration/unregistration of action implementation like that of the present invention.

The same argument is applicable to the rejection of claim 5 wherein the user may have the option of selectively having a registered action performed in response to a triggering build event. All Notess recognizes is the conventional user over-ride of a default condition in any product build procedure. This is not related to a registered action in an event having a select option under defined circumstances.

Representative claim 9 has limitations specific to the registration/unregistration implementation of the present inventions, and is, thus, patentable for the reasons set forth hereinabove for independent claim 1. The claim has a further limitation regarding the determination of whether a user is authorized to register to perform specific actions. While Notess may disclose in general the determination of user authorization for specified actions, it is clearly not in any environment like the registration/unregistration environment of the present invention.

Claim 10 is an independent claim defining the same registration/unregistration of event building actions environment of the present invention as described above with respect to the other independent claims but has the further limitations that the actions selectable to be registered are set forth in a menu associated with each build event in a sequence of build events. In this way, the user may select an action for which to register from the menu. All Examiner cites in Notess is a disclosure of a menu of actions which may be used in association with a process step but not with any registration for an action.

Neither the basic Grundy reference, the modifying Notess patent, nor the combination thereof disclose the gist

of the present invention wherein a group of authorized users
i.e. builders of sequences of events in the formation of
program objects have interactive display access to a
plurality of sets of sequential build events in the building
of a plurality of related program objects. Within this
display environment of displayed concurrent related program
builds, a user may select to register or unregister
interactively for the performance of actions with respect to
selected build events, and this registration of actions is
viewable by the other users who may be affected by the
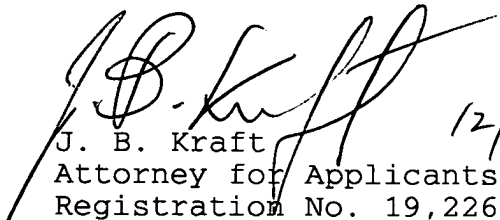selection of such actions.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing:

claims 1, 6-8, 12, 17-19, 23, and 27-30 are submitted to be patentable over the Grundy publication under 35 U.S.C. 103(a); and

Claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-16, 20-22, and 31-33 are submitted to be patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the combination of Grundy in view of Notess.

Accordingly, the Board of Appeals is respectfully requested to reverse the final rejection and find claims 1-33 in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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VIII. Claims Appendix

1.   A computer controlled user interactive display system
for dynamically tracking and controlling the building of
software program objects comprising:

      means for tracking each of a plurality of sets of
sequential build events, each set of sequential build events
respectively building a program object;

      means for displaying each of said sets of sequential
build events;

      means associated with each of said displayed sequential
build events enabling any one of a plurality of users to
interactively register to perform an action on said build
event; and

      means associated with each of said displayed sequential
build events enabling any one of said plurality of users to
interactively unregister to perform an action on said build
event.

1 2.   The computer controlled display system of claim 1
2 wherein said means enabling a user to register to perform an
3 action on a build event further includes:
4   means for determining whether the user is authorized to
5 perform said action.

1   3.   The computer controlled display system of claim 2
2   wherein said means enabling a user to register to perform an
3   action on a build event further includes:
4   means enabling a user to selectively request a
5   displayed data entry dialog box; and
6   means for determining whether the user is authorized to
7   register from the data entered in said box.

1   4.   The computer controlled display system of claim 1
2   further including means responsive to a state in a build
3   event for automatically performing a registered action on
4   said build event.

1   5.   The computer controlled display system of claim 1
2   further including means responsive to a state in a build
3   event for enabling a user to selectively perform a
4   registered action on said build event.

1   6.   The computer controlled display system of claim 1
2   wherein said registered action is notice to the registered
3   user of a state in a build event.

1   7.   The computer controlled display system of claim 6
2   wherein another registered action may be selectively
3   performed by the registered user.

1   8.   The computer controlled display system of claim 7
2   wherein:
3   the registered user is a manager of the building of a
4   program object;
5   the state in a build event is a request of another user
6   to register or unregister; and
7   the selective action performed by said manager is the
8   authorization of the request.

1   9.   The computer controlled display system of claim 1
2   wherein said means enabling a user to unregister to perform
3   an action on a build event further includes:
4   means enabling a user to selectively request a
5   displayed data entry dialog box; and
6   means for determining from the data entered in said box
7   whether the user is authorized to unregister to perform an
8   action.

1   10.   A computer controlled user interactive display system
2   for dynamically tracking and controlling the building of
3   software program objects comprising:
4   means for tracking a sequence of build events in the
5   building of a program object;
6   means for displaying each of said sequence build
7   events;
8   means associated with each of said displayed sequence
9   of build events for enabling a user to selectively request a
10 displayed dialog window including:
11   a menu of actions said user may selectively
12   perform on the associated build event at the current
13   state of the event; and
14   data entry means enabling any one of a plurality
15   of users to request registration to perform an action
16   on the build event or unregistration to perform an
17   action on the build event.

1   11.   The computer controlled display system of claim 10
2   further including means for determining whether the
3   requested registration or unregistration is authorized.

1 12. A method for dynamically tracking and controlling the
2 building of software program objects on a computer
3 controlled user interactive display system comprising:
4   tracking each of a plurality of sets of sequential
5 build events, each set of sequential build events
6 respectively building a program object;
7   displaying each of said sets of sequential build
8 events;
9   enabling any one of a plurality of users to
10 interactively register to perform an action on each of said
11 displayed sequential build events; and
12   enabling any one of said plurality of users to
13 interactively unregister to perform an action on each of
14 said displayed sequential build events.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of enabling a
2 user to register to perform an action on a build event
3 further includes:
4   the step of determining whether the user is authorized
5 to perform said action.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of enabling a
2 user to register to perform an action on a build event
3 further includes the steps of:
4   enabling a user to selectively request a displayed data
5 entry dialog box; and
6   determining whether the user is authorized from the
7 data entered in said box.

1 15. The method of claim 12 further including:
2   the step of automatically performing a registered
3 action on said build event responsive to a state in a build
4 event.

1 16. The method of claim 12 further including:
2   the step of enabling a user to selectively perform a
3 registered action on said build event responsive to a state
4 in a build event.

1 17. The method of claim 12 wherein said registered action
2 is notice to the registered user of a state in a build
3 event.

1 18. The method of claim 17 including the step of
2 selectively performing another registered action by said
3 registered user in response to said notice.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein:
2   said registered user is a manager of the building of a
3 program object;
4   said state in a build event is a request of another
5 user to register or unregister; and
6   said selective action performed by said manager is the
7 authorization of the request.

1 20. The method of claim 12 wherein said means enabling a
2 user to unregister to perform an action on a build event
3 further includes the steps of:
4   enabling a user to selectively request a displayed data
5 entry dialog box; and
6   determining from the data entered in said box whether
7 the user is authorized to unregister.

1 21. A method for dynamically tracking and controlling the
2 building of software program objects on a computer
3 controlled user interactive display system comprising:
4   tracking each of a plurality of sets of sequential
5 build events, each set of sequential build events
6 respectively building a program object;
7   displaying each of said sets of sequential build
8 events;
9   enabling a user to selectively request a displayed
10 dialog window in association with each of said displayed
11 sequence of build events for including:
12   a menu of actions said user may selectively
13   perform on the associated build event at the current
14   state of the event; and
15   data entry means enabling any one of a plurality
16   of users to request registration to perform an action
17   on the build event or unregistration to perform an
18   action on the build event.

1 22. The method of claim 21 further including the step of
2 determining whether the requested registration or
3 unregistration is authorized.

1   23.   A computer program having code recorded on a computer
2   readable medium for dynamically tracking and controlling, on
3   a computer controlled display, the building of software
4   program objects, said computer program comprising:
5   means for tracking each of a plurality of sets of
6   sequential build events, each set of sequential build events
7   respectively building a program object;
8   means for displaying each of said sets of sequential
9   build events;
10   means associated with each of said displayed sequential
11 build events enabling any one of a plurality of users to
12 interactively register to perform an action on said build
13 event; and
14   means associated with each of said displayed sequential
15 build events enabling any one of said plurality of users to
16 interactively unregister to perform an action on said build
17 event.

1   24.   The computer program of claim 23 wherein said means
2   enabling a user to register to perform an action on a build
3   event further includes:
4   means for determining whether the user is authorized to
5   perform said action.

1   25.   The computer program of claim 24 wherein said means
2   enabling a user to register to perform an action on a build
3   event further includes:
4   means enabling a user to selectively request a
5   displayed data entry dialog box; and
6   means for determining whether the user is authorized to
7   register from the data entered in said box.

1   26.   The computer program of claim 23 further including
2   means responsive to a state in a build event for
3   automatically performing a registered action on said build
4   event.

1   27.   The computer program of claim 23 further including
2   means responsive to a state in a build event for enabling a
3   user to selectively perform a registered action on said
4   build event.

1   28.   The computer program of claim 27 wherein said
2   registered action is notice to the registered user of a
3   state in a build event.

1   29.   The computer program of claim 28 wherein another
2   registered action may be selectively performed by the
3   registered user.

1   30.   The computer program of claim 29 wherein:
2   the registered user is a manager of the building of a
3   program object;
4   the state in a build event is a request of another user
5   to register or unregister; and
6   the selective action performed by said manager is the
7   authorization of the request.

1 31. The computer program of claim 23 wherein said means
2 enabling a user to unregister to perform an action on a
3 build event further includes:
4   means enabling a user to selectively request a
5 displayed data entry dialog box; and
6   means for determining from the data entered in said box
7 whether the user is authorized to unregister to perform an
8 action.

1 32. A computer program having code recorded on a computer
2 readable medium for dynamically tracking and controlling, on
3 a computer controlled display, the building of software
4 program objects, said computer program comprising:
5   means for tracking a sequence of build events in the
6 building of a program object;
7   means for displaying each of said sequence build
8 events;
9   means associated with each of said displayed sequence
10 of build events for enabling any one of a plurality of users
11 to selectively request a displayed dialog window including:
12   a menu of actions said user may selectively
13   perform on the associated build event at the current
14   state of the event; and
15   data entry means enabling the user to request
16   registration to perform an action on the build event or
17   unregistration to perform an action on the build event.

1 33. The computer program of claim 32 further including
2 means for determining whether the requested registration or
3 unregistration is authorized.